

A dignity on noble purpose based,
 That mingles gladness in the mourner's cup,
 Restrains the proud, but lifts the humble up;
 And purity of thought that may be traced
 In every act and word: these make the lady.

LESSON XXVI.

Spell and define—

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| 1. IN-U-TIL'I-TY, uselessness. | PEE'VISH-NESS, fretfulness. |
| RA-PID'I-TY, swiftness. | 4. SUR-VIVES', outlives. |
| 2. AG'GRA-VATES, makes worse. | 5. RET-RI-BU'TION, reward. |
| 3. A-DAPT'ED, made suitable. | PREY'ING, wasting gradually. |

THE FOLLY OF COMPLAINING.

1. The folly of complaining is evident from its utter inutility. If complaints could rebuild the house consumed by fire, if complaints could gather again the wealth once scattered, if complaints could infuse rapidity into the sluggish blood and retouch the pale and wasted cheek with the rich hue of health, if complaints could reach the ear of death and recall the loved lost ones, and give their lips the eloquence of love, and their eyes the glance of affection that once thrilled us—then might a man complain, and his neighbors might not call it foolish.

2. But it injures one's character to indulge in complaints. Without making his condition better, it destroys that gentleness of spirit which is so soothing in affliction, and deprives a man of the fortitude with which the ills of life should be borne. It aggravates the wounds of the spirit. It exaggerates the minor evils of existence. When grown into a habit, it makes a man a perpetual self-tormentor, and a source of continual vexation to his family and friends. And this wretched habit, growing with a man's years, renders him not only unhappy in himself and disagreeable to